

## Discipline/Management Strategies

1. If you are part of a middle school team, you should sit down with your teammates and come up with a set of expectations for your students that you all can live with and enforce consistently.
2. If you are on your own, you need to come up with a set of written expectations for your students that you can live with and enforce consistently.
3. Be consistent. Be consistent. Be consistent.
4. Be patient with yourself as well as with your students
5. Make parents your allies. Call early and often. Use the word "concerned" a lot in those conversations. Don't complain about the kids; be "concerned" about them. If you do need to communicate a concern to a parent, be specific and descriptive. Don't use generic terms like "misbehaves" or "is disruptive." Describe the specific misbehavior or disruption you would like assistance with.
6. Don't talk too much. Use the first part of the class for lecture/presentations (approximately 15-20 minutes) and then get the kids working. Give them opportunities to work alone, with a partner, or in small groups.
7. Break the class period into two or three different activities, but do try to make each activity transition smoothly into the next one.
8. Begin at the very start of the class period and end at the very end of the class period. Some teachers have something on the board for the students to do as soon as they enter the room.
9. Don't call roll. Use your seating chart to take roll while they are doing something.
10. Keep all of the students as actively involved as possible. Don't do things like take turns reading aloud, which only occupies one student at a time.
11. When one group does a presentation of any kind, the rest of the students should be involved in evaluating that group, preferably with a rubric.
12. If you need to talk to a specific student, then quietly go up to them and talk to them at their desk or out in the hall. Never engage in a disciplinary conversation across the room. It becomes a fascinating game of ping pong for the rest of the class to enjoy.
13. Keep your sense of perspective and your sense of humor. Don't let a student get the upper hand. If a staring contest ensues, be willing to capitulate. Say, "If you want to have a staring contest, I'm happy to give in. I don't care which of us can outstare the other; what I need for you to do is..."
14. Know when to seek help from counselors, other teachers, administrators, parents, and anyone else who can offer help. You don't have to do it all yourself.